

Attorney Docket Number: FSP0291

Application Number: 09/759,935

-3-

Claims 1-45 (Cancelled)

46. (Currently Amended) A video on demand system comprising:
an application server to associate a unique modulator group identifier with each physical transmission path from a headend to each of a plurality of subscriber one or more modulators that service a plurality of subscriber terminals terminal groups, the modulator group identifier unique to the one or more modulators;
the application server to receive from a requesting subscriber terminal of a particular the subscriber terminals group a request for video on demand data including a modulator group identifier for the particular group, to extract and recognize the modulator group identifier from the request for video on demand, to select only one or more of the modulators of the physical transmission path associated with the particular modulator group to pass the video on demand data downstream to the requesting subscriber terminal; and
a data formatter to periodically insert the unique modulator group identifier for each terminal group into communications directed only to the subscriber terminals served by the one or more modulators of the modulator group of the terminal group.

47. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 46, further comprising:
a program selector to assign to the video on demand data a program slot associated with the selected modulators and to communicate to the requesting subscriber terminal, in response to the request, indications of the at least one selected modulator and the assigned program slot.

48. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 46 further comprising a video server to periodically communicate the unique modulator group identifiers as part of program streams.

Attorney Docket Number: FSP0291
Application Number: 09/759,935

-4-

49. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 48 the video server periodically communicating the unique modulator group identifiers as part of MPEG data program streams.

50. (Currently Amended) A method of providing video on-demand, comprising:
associating a unique modulator group identifier with each ~~physical transmission path~~
~~from a headend to each of a plurality of subscriber~~ one or more modulators that service
a plurality of subscriber terminals, the group identifier unique to the one or more
modulators terminal groups;
receiving from a requesting subscriber terminal of a particular modulator group a request
for video on demand data including a group identifier for the particular modulator
group;
extracting and recognizing the modulator group identifier from the request for video on
demand;
selecting only modulators of the ~~physical transmission path associated with the particular~~
modulator group to pass the video on demand data downstream to the subscriber
terminal; and
periodically inserting the ~~unique~~ modulator group identifier ~~for each terminal group~~ into
communications directed only to subscriber terminals ~~of the terminal~~ served by the
modulator group.

51. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 50, further comprising:
assigning to the video on demand data a program slot associated with the selected
modulators and communicating to the requesting subscriber terminal, in response to the
request, indications of at least one selected modulator and the assigned program slot.

52. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 50 further comprising periodically
communicating the ~~unique~~ modulator group identifiers as part of program streams.

Attorney Docket Number: FSP0291
Application Number: 09/759,935

-5-

53. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 52 further comprising periodically communicating the ~~unique~~ modulator group identifiers as part of MPEG data program streams.